



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -
 OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

March 2019



tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

tulareumc.com

Our Mission Statement: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



Spring Dinner

Sunday, March 3, 2019

11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Pick Up Dinners in WESLEY HALL

*Adult \$15.00 - Child \$7.50

* Tickets can be purchased before or after Worship Service on February 24th ...or call Beth 553-2969.

MENU: Baked ham, potato casserole, buttered carrots, asparagus with Italian dressing, roll, and for dessert... peach-apricot cobbler!



Methodist Women Presents:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 5, Wesley Hall 5:30 supper, 6 – 7 program by Pastor Mary. Receive your Lenten Guidebook, enjoy Prayer Circle, meet your Lenten Prayer Partner



Scholarship Soup Luncheon

March 17th after church in Wesley Hall

Donations will be accepted for scholarships for our young college bound TUMC people. Please join us.



Mary's Musings

I remember my first Ash Wednesday as a Christian. Oh, how heavy the world felt as I entered the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Sacramento on a sunny noon day in March. I might as well have been Marley's ghost, dragging the chains of my sin and failings, bent over from the burdens of my humanity. I believed in Jesus Christ, but wasn't sure how to move forward in faith. Then, the Pastor spoke these words: "I invite you in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." A holy Lent! That's what I needed! A season devoted to seeking freedom in Christ, to shedding the must-haves, shoulds, and have-tos, to spending extra time with the Lord in pursuit of the new beginning He wanted for me. After receiving the sign of the cross in ash, I organized my life around everything the Church had to offer – prayer circles, Bible Study, healing services. I determined to read the Bible from cover to cover before Good Friday. And I prayed. Jesus Christ died to free us from sin and death. I prayed that He would free me. By Easter I was a new person, with wings instead of chains.

Tulare UMC has many opportunities for you to make this season a holy Lent. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 5, 5:30 supper, 6 – 7 program by Pastor Mary. Receive your Lenten Guidebook, enjoy Prayer Circle, meet your Lenten Prayer Partner

Ash Wednesday March 6, noon in the Sanctuary – a service of reflection and repentance with Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion in Hope Chapel Every Sunday morning from 8-8:30am

Prayer Circles every Saturday from 4-5:30pm at the Parsonage during Lent starting March 16th

Worship Our theme this Lent is "You Turn to God: Fresh Starts, New Beginnings"

Holy Week Services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Easter Worship

And, of course, there are many opportunities for service and education during Lent.

No Barriers Bible Study will be starting on Acts of the Apostles and Lent is a great time to make a habit of joining us for supper and Bible Study on Monday nights. (Supper at 5:30, Bible Study from 6-7)

Adult Sunday School will be studying and discussion Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount during Lent. We meet in Fireside from 9am – 9:45am. Grab a cup of coffee from Breakfast Before Church and join us.

March Worship Topics

We begin our journey to the Cross and Empty Tomb starting on March 6TH at our Ash Wednesday service, then continue for a season of forty days of deep reflection, prayer, fasting, and self-denial, until we arrive at Holy Week when Jesus Christ breaks the chains of sin and death for all of humanity, including us.

March 3 HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon Title: "Listen to Him!"

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

March 6:noon ASH WEDNESDAY

A service of reflection and repentance with music, Scripture, a message by Pastor Mary, and the Imposition of Ashes. All are welcome.

March 10 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title: You Turn to Baptism

Scripture: Luke 3:1-17

March 17 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title: You Turn from Your Old Life

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

March 24 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title: You Turn to Your Enemy for Healing

Scripture: Acts 9:1-18

March 31 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title: You Turn from Fooling Yourself

Scripture: Luke 22:54-62



Methodist Women's Fellowship – Stephen Ministries

As we do on the second Tuesday of each month, MWF will meet at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. A very special program, presented by Claire Grant and Connie Smith, is focused on Stephen Ministries. Everyone who is available on Tuesday morning, including the men, are invited to this special meeting. There will be other opportunities to learn about Stephen Ministries, as noted in this Messenger and in months to follow. A short MWF meeting will follow the program.



STEPHEN MINISTRIES

By: Claire Grant

It has now been just over a week since Connie Smith and I returned from Anaheim and the Leadership Training Conference for Stephen Ministries. We joined over 200 others from the United States and Canada and one woman from China! There were 146 congregations represented. United Methodists comprised 21 of those. Numerous denominations sent members and several Roman Catholic parishes sent delegates as well.

The training was condensed into 6 days and to say it was intense is an understatement!! We listened. We discussed. We took copious notes - it was almost like being back in college. We participated in role playing. We sang. We prayed. We met many new people and formed friendships. And we drank many, many cups of coffee!! Our brains were filled to capacity.

We have come away from this experience impressed with the scope of this ministry and excited about implementing this program in our church. As the early spring unfolds, you will be hearing much more from us as we begin to set this program in motion. We will be training and organizing members of our church to provide one on one care to those members who are undergoing difficult times in their lives - grief, illness, job loss, loneliness or other struggles. Our ministers will not be trained to fix problems but will be enabled to walk along with those who are hurting. Our goal will be to help these people to feel God's love.

We will keep you informed of our plans as they begin to take shape. Pastor Mary, Connie and I are anxious for this plan to flourish here at our church and we ask for your prayers as we begin to lay the foundation for the training that will begin soon.



Travel Lunch Bunch

Tuesday March 26th noon in the Fireside Room.

Our topic is travel mishaps, troubles and adventures.

Bring your lunch and plan to share your favorite stories of difficulties overcome.

Welcome New Members

We are delighted to have Alfonzo Collins, Joseph Smith, Jesse Derek Garcia, Grant Cooper and Brandi Martin become members of our Church on February 3rd.



The Jubilee

May 4th, 6pm

Chinese Cultural Center (Visalia)

AUCTION

Time to have fun, eat great food, bid on wonderful auction items, and raise money for our beloved Church. To be successful we need your talent and time to be turned into auction items! Do you knit, crochet, quilt, or do any kind of wood, iron, or welding work? Are you a painter, poet, or candlestick maker? Do you teach dance, know how to force others to do a killer workout, or do magic tricks? Are you gifted at creating a themed basket that can't be resisted (patriotic, beach, movie night, dog, cat, etc.) Or do you have some snazzy thing lying around that we can turn into an auction item?

If you said **YES** to any of these questions, please contact either of our Jubilee Co-Chairs, Evelyn Benson (686-1390) or Beth Cox (553-2969), or phone the Church Office (686-8523)

Even if you said **no**, you can give us cash and we'll throw something together.



Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's Holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. On the First Sunday of Lent March 10th we will be remembering our baptism. Think about when you were baptized, where you were baptized and who was there when you were baptized. If you have not been baptized yet, Pastor Mary will be offering this life changing Means of Grace on Easter April 21st. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

MARCH CALENDAR

Every Sunday (MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

- 8:00 **Chapel** – Hope Chapel with Holy Communion
- 8:30 **Breakfast** – Wesley Hall
- 9:00 **Sunday School Classes**
- 10:00 **Worship Service**
- 3:00 **Kids Game Day** – Basement every week
- 5:00 **Boy Scouts-Upstairs** – Education Wing

Every Monday (MARCH 4, 11, 17, 25)

NO BARRIERS BIBLE STUDY

- 5:00 **Fellowship & Music** –
- 5:30 **Supper** – in the Basement Social Hall
- 6:00-7:00 **Study of Luke with Pastor Mary**

Every Tuesday (MARCH 5, 12, 18, 26)

- 10:00 - 12:00 **Clothes Closet Open**
- 2:00 **Twin Oaks Devotional**

- Sun., March 3 11:15 **Trustees Meeting** Archive
- Mon., March 4 11:00 **Education Meeting** Fireside
- Sun., March 10 11:15 **Church Council** Fireside
- Tues., March 12 4:00 **Outreach** Fireside
- Tues., March 19 6:00 **Finance Meeting** Fireside



- 5 **MARGARET ALLEN**
- 5 **JAKIN GARCIA**
- 8 **STEVE BEECHER**
- 9 **SANDRA LANGIANO**
- 11 **AVA REYNOLDS**
- 12 **JUSTIN BROWN**
- 13 **PIPER REYNOLDS**
- 15 **MATHEW BELTRAN**
- 14 **TAMMY THOMPSON**
- 23 **DON BOSWELL**
- 30 **XAVIER REYNOLDS**
- 30 **STACY HERNANDEZ**
- 31 **SHIRLEY PHILPOT**
- 31 **RUBIE WILHELM**

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed please contact the church office.



*Margaret Allen's
103rd Birthday March 10th
immediately following worship
in Wesley Hall*



Spring Dinner Prep Dates
March 1 and 2
9 am in the Basement Kitchen
BYOK (Bring Your Own Knives)

MARCH

2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Communion 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Trustee-Archive Rm 11-1 Spring Dinner 2pm General Church Meeting 3:00 Kids Game Day	4 11am Education Mtg **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	5 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 6-7 program	6 Ash Wednesday Noon Sanctuary	7	8	9
10 Time Change 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11 Margaret Allen's B-Day 11:15 Church Council 2pm Kids Talk Time 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Boy Scout Meeting	11 4-5 Event Hosp. Mtg. **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	12 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Methodist Women 10am Outreach 4pm	13 Assoc. of Churches 12- 2 Wesley Hall	14	15	16 Prayer Circle Parsonage 4-5:30
17 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Soup Bowl Lunch 2pm Kids Talk Time 3:00 Kids Game Day	18 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor	19 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Finance 6pm	20 	21	22	23 Prayer Circle Parsonage 4-5:30
24 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 2pm Kids Talk Time 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Boy Scout Meeting	25 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor	26 Travel Lunch Bunch at noon	27	28	29	30 Prayer Circle Parsonage 4-5:30
31 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 2pm Kids Talk Time 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Boy Scout Meeting						

Featured Member of the Month: Shirley Philpot



Our beloved Shirley Philpot is our March member of the month. She is turning 80 years young on March 31st! She has been an active member of Tulare UMC for roughly, well, forever. She is best known for her warmth and loving kindness to everyone. Her son Tim wrote: "My Mom is the most amazing woman in the world. She's taught me to love not hate. She always says, 'Hate takes up too much space in one's heart, mind, and soul.' I've received the best blessing in the world and that is when God chose her to be my Mom." Shirley was our 2007 Sweetheart of the Year. But let's be honest, she's our Sweetheart every year. We love you Shirley! Happy Birthday!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Thank You

Many Thanks for the Christmas and Birthday Cards. I am so gratified and uplifted by the messages in the cards and the ones you wrote. God Bless you all, Lavon Brogan

Thank you for all the Birthday and Christmas cards you sent. I am doing fine and appreciate all the cards I received. Love, Jo Sullivan

We are grateful for Linda Day's successful heart surgery.

It was great to have Coach Smith join us for worship. The Gong sisters were thrilled to see their former teacher.

Sandy and Terry Langiano felt well enough to join us in worship. It was so nice to see them again.

Our Sanctuary is about to be graced by banners during Lent made by Bobbi Moore.

Jerry Mitchell and Marian VanderWall are both healing and regaining strength in Rehab Hospitals.

We had 11 plus members of our church volunteer at the International Ag Expo.

Paul and Brenda Brown are now city folk!!!!



*Margaret Allen's
103rd Birthday
March 10th*

Immediately following worship in Wesley Hall

Our Church Transforming the World



KIDS GAME DAY

The Education Committee would like to thank those of you who have brought food for Kids Game Day on Sunday afternoons 3:00 – 4:30 PM. If you have leftovers or you are willing to bring one meal for the kids, please call the Church Office and let us know. We're happy to have prepared meals, supplies to make our own, pizza delivered, and any other light meal that you could bless the kids with. We have between 10 to 30 kids from Preschool to High School who play UNO, Apples to Apples, "infamous Sardines" plus a Christian message and prayer. All children and families are welcome.



United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Nine youth and four adults from our Church met with Bishop Minerva Carcano at her District Confirmation Rally in Clovis on February 16th. What an impressive bunch of young people we have at Tulare UMC, including Tomas, Anthony, Exavian, Nelice, Anaya, Julie, Esaiez, McKayla and Falicity. They all received Bibles signed by the Bishop. Our young people have a message of Good News to share with our congregation. Stay tuned as their leaders Megan and Cesar Beltran, Greg Smith and Patty Pamplona get them ready to share on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to support Tomas Castro's family in providing resources for his High School Graduation, his mother Anna Rodriguez is baking and selling breads for \$5.00 a loaf. Her number is (559) 736-2463.

Devotions at Twin Oaks 2pm Tuesdays – a time of Scripture, conversation, and prayer; we also bless prayer shawls and blankets for those in need of comfort; we recently blessed 12 prayer blankets for Tulare County Hospice to give to those who are nearing the end of their lives.

Excerpt from Pastor Mary's sermon February 17, 2019 regarding the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church February 23 – 26th in St Louis on the subject of human sexuality. Complete sermon is in the office. Pastor Mary welcomes conversations about this subject.

“What I am careful of, and what I want to caution all of you against, is sitting in judgment of anyone's faith. I have been in ministry with people in prison who have deep abiding faith, and I have sat with rich people who appeared to have none. But I did not call the rich man out, because faith is ultimately between a believer and their Savior. Those who want the full inclusion of homosexuals in the life of the United Methodist Church are not less Christian than those who want to see them excluded from leadership – we simply use different traditions, different experiences, and different reasoning to understand the Scripture passages that address homosexuality. That's at the heart of what it means to be United Methodist – we bring our full arsenal of intellect, feeling, and history to address any given social issue. We have done it in the past with regard to slavery, prohibition, divorce, civil rights, and women in ministry. And now homosexuality.

This dispute comes down to an ancient conflict in Christianity between those who identify as Gospel Christians, wanting to embrace all the excluded, marginalized, last, least, and lost of the world, just as Jesus lived and taught vs. Holiness Christians, who want the purity and disciplines of the faith to be strictly upheld in order to fight against conforming to the world and the devil's ways, just as Paul wrote. Both sides of this conflict have Scripture and tradition on their side. Neither is complete without the other, in my opinion, but in the midst of these historic fights on social issues the sides get driven to the extremes, which is where the ugliness happens.

I hate the extremes in religion and in politics. I hate the extremes because of the self-righteousness and judgment that always comes with extremism. In order to combat any potential for that in me, about a year ago I asked Steve Creel, the pastor at Visalia UMC to join me in a spiritual exercise around this issue. We wrote letters back and forth stating our theological and Scriptural position on the issue of homosexuality, using the quadrilateral (reason, experience, tradition) to the best of our ability – once a letter had been written we would come together and read the letter out loud. We wrote passionately and honestly and as we read our letters to each other over the course of many months, there began to settle over us humility and awe. We disagree, but are unified in Christ. We do not question one another's faith or commitment to the Lord. We each as pastors may end up in different denominations, representing opposing views on this particular issue, but we are united in our confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. That alone fills me with humility and awe.

I don't have a crystal ball, so can't predict what will happen in St. Louis later this month. What I promise you is that I will learn everything I can, read everything that comes to me, and share with you everything I know when we meet as a congregation on March 3rd at 2pm. In the meantime, prayers, abundant prayers.”

**All Church Meeting to discuss results of Special General Conference
Decision in the Sanctuary
March 3rd at 2pm**



Sweetheart Dinner Recap:

Linda Day was our well deserved Sweetheart of the Year. Many thanks to Julia and Dave Summers for the wonderful dinner and the Youth Group for serving (you did an amazing job). Thank you Libby Boghosian and the Gong sisters for the table decorations, who knew decorations from the Dollar Store could be so beautiful? Thank you Stuart Hitchcock for the beautiful music. It was a wonderful evening of music, food and socializing. Looking forward to next year.



Finance Corner

Did you know the Church Council adopted a \$225,104.77 budget for 2019, which is \$18,758.73 per month for all the wonderful programming and up keep of our Historic buildings. If you would like a copy of the budget it is available in the church office.

Yours in Christ, Evelyn Benson, Chair of Finance and Stewardship Committee



On the first Sunday of the month during Holy Communion we will have a free will offering basket for UMCOR



As United Methodist Church members we have vowed to support Tulare UMC with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

Monthly Messenger: Deadline to submit information for the April Messenger is Monday March 25th by noon.

TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

228 W. Kern Ave.

Tulare, CA 93274

Return Service Requested

PHONE

(559) 686-8523

OFFICE HOURS

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

9:00am – 1:00pm



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Minerva Carcaño

Debra Brady, District Superintendent



**TULARE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Mary Maaga

Lynnda Boswell,
Administrative Assistant

Landes Dung,
Music Coordinator/Director
Catalina Daggett, Organist

Andrew Summers,
Technical Services Director
Max Muhlenbrock, Custodian

Julia Summers,
Events Coordinator